AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-67. **(Canceled)**

68. **(Currently Amended)** A recombinant construct comprising in operable linkage: a polynucleotide that encodes a polypeptide comprising a protein-destabilizing element, and a nucleic acid sequence that encodes an RNA destabilizing element that reduces the stability of a transcript encoded by the polynucleotide in a eukaryotic cell, wherein the polynucleotide and the nucleic acid sequence are heterologous to each other.

69-109.**(Canceled)**

110. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, wherein the protein-destabilizing element is selected from the group consisting of: a PEST sequence, an N-terminal destabilizing amino acid and a ubiquitin.

111. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, wherein the polypeptide is a reporter protein.

112. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 111, wherein the reporter protein is an enzymatic protein or a protein associated with the emission of light.

113. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 111, wherein the reporter protein is a fluorescent protein or a luminescent protein.

114. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, further comprising a cloning site for introducing a sequence of nucleotides in operable connection with the polynucleotide and the nucleic acid sequence.

115. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 114, wherein the cloning site is a multiple cloning site.

116. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, further comprising a polyadenylation sequence.

117. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, further comprising a selectable marker.

118. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, further comprising an origin of replication.

119. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, further comprising a translational enhancer.

120. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, which is a vector.

121. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, further comprising one or more members selected from the group consisting of:

- a multiple cloning site for introducing a sequence of nucleotides;
- a reporter gene;
- a transcriptional enhancer for enhancing transcription of the polynucleotide;
- a translational enhancer for enhancing translation of the transcript encoded by the polynucleotide;
- a polyadenylation sequence;
- a selectable marker gene;
- an origin of replication;
- an intron; and
- a mRNA nuclear export signal

122. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 114 or claim 121, further comprising at least one site which is cleavable enzymatically, chemically or otherwise to provide a linearised vector into which PCR amplification products can be directly inserted.

123. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim ~~107~~ 68, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is from a gene selected from the group consisting of: c-fos, c-jun, c-myc, GM-CSF, IL-3, TNF-alpha, IL-2, IL-6, IL-8, IL-10, Urokinase, bcl-2, SGLT1 (Na(+)-coupled glucose transporter), Cox-2 (cyclooxygenase 2), IL-8, PAI-2 (plasminogen activator inhibitor type 2), beta1-adrenergic receptor and GAP43.

124. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim ~~107~~ 68, wherein the nucleic acid sequence is SEQ ID NO:19.

125. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 111, wherein the reporter protein is selected from the group consisting of: Luciferase, Green Fluorescent Protein, Red Fluorescent Protein, SEAP and CAT.

126. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, wherein the polypeptide is a protein having at least a light-emitting activity and a selection marker activity.

127. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a chimeric gene comprising a coding sequence from a gene encoding a light-emitting protein and a coding sequence from a gene encoding a selectable marker protein.

128. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 126, wherein the polypeptide is encoded by a chimeric gene comprising a coding sequence from a gene encoding: a light-emitting protein selected from the group consisting of: Green Fluorescent Protein, Luciferase; and a coding sequence from a gene encoding a selectable marker protein selected from the group consisting of: kanamycin kinase, neomycin phosphotransferase, aminoglycoside phosphotransferase, puromycin N-acetyl transferase, and puromycin resistance protein.

129. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 114, wherein the sequence of nucleotides comprises a transcriptional control element.

130. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 114, wherein the sequence of nucleotides comprises a promoter.

131. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 114, wherein the sequence of nucleotides comprises a cis-acting regulatory element.

132. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 131, wherein the cis-acting regulatory element is selected from the group consisting of: an enhancer of transcription, an enhancer of translation, an enhancer of mRNA splicing, an enhancer of mRNA export, an enhancer of mRNA degradation, a repressor of transcription, a repressor of translation, a repressor of mRNA splicing, a repressor of mRNA export and a repressor of mRNA degradation.

133. **(Previously Presented)** An isolated or recombinant cell comprising the construct according to claim 68.

134. **(Previously Presented)** The cell according to claim 133, wherein the cell is a eukaryotic cell.

135. **(Previously Presented)** The cell according to claim 133, wherein the cell is a mammalian cell.

136. **(Previously Presented)** The cell according to claim 133, wherein the cell is a human cell.

137. **(Previously Presented)** The cell according to claim 133, wherein the cell is a plant cell.

138. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, wherein the RNA destabilizing element comprises an AU-rich element.

139. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 138, wherein the AU-rich element comprises the sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

140. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, wherein the polypeptide is a reporter protein comprising a PEST sequence.

141. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 140, wherein the reporter protein comprises Luciferase.

142. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 140, wherein the reporter protein comprises firefly luciferase.

143. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 140, wherein the reporter protein comprises Renilla luciferase.

144. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, wherein the RNA destabilizing element comprises an AU-rich element and wherein the polypeptide is a reporter protein that comprises firefly luciferase and a PEST sequence.

145. **(Previously Presented)** The construct according to claim 68, wherein the RNA destabilizing element comprises an AU-rich element and wherein the polypeptide is a reporter protein that comprises Renilla luciferase and a PEST sequence.